

Hancock Trails Club Board Meeting
Minutes
January 16, 2024

Attendance: Jay Green, Mark Roberts, John Diebel, Wayne Stordahl, Jason Martin, Mark Klein, Nate Laakonen, Murphy Mallow, and Keith Meyers. Guest: Mary Babcock

Jay convened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Agenda: No changes

Bus Garage: Jay introduced Mary Babcock who was present to advise the Club that it would no longer be able to store equipment in the city's bus barn. Mary advised the board that the Club would be accommodated for the remainder of the winter in either cold or warm storage and that we would need to start looking at alternatives. Wayne asked about the possibility of the storage in the arena by the Zamboni. This was not a possibility. There was discussion concerning the MJO estimate on part of cold storage. Jay indicated it would be on the mechanics bay end. The \$60,000 MJO bid would have included walling off the area, heating it, and providing a drain. Mary indicated that there is land near the transit garage as a potential location for a facility. Jay noted that the Club has between \$30,000 and \$40,000 in the building fund. Mary noted that the city paid \$58,000 for the ball field storage which is a non-heated building. The Industrial Park is not an option due to the existing covenants. Mark Roberts noted that we would need about a 30' x 40' space. Keith mentioned the possibility of seeking either an MDNR Passport Grant or a MDNR Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant to cover the cost of a new facility. When asked about help with match requirement, Mary indicated that the city would not have a lot to put toward it, but that the Recreation Fund has not been obligated. Mary mentioned Henderson Drive as an option. Mark Roberts indicated that it makes the most sense to have it near the DPW. It was decided that we would look for grant funds first. Mary suggested that we consider a letter of interest outside of the recreation grant cycle with the Copper Shores Community Health Foundation.

Minutes: Mark Roberts had made written comments to Keith. The rest of the board had not reviewed the minutes so action on the December minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

Groomers Report: None of the groomers were present. Tyler, who John Erickson had on the summer crew, and Zach are on the machines. John talked to Wolf, and he is willing to fill in. John Pekkala worked on Saturday and rolled again at 1:30. Wayne asked who is training the new guys specifically about dragging at Barkell. Mark Roberts noted that our trails are not much behind Swedetown. Mark Klein indicated that he still needs help and noted a retired guy from Wisconsin who is looking to help who went out with him on Sunday. Mark Klein also noted that he has been out several hours the last few days. Jay indicated that he would have Kevin Sythe get with Mark Klein about volunteering.

Treasurer's Report: John indicated that there is \$151,914 across all accounts with \$31,000+ that we have immediate access to. Total membership fees are down 54%. There were \$232 in

donations at the Luminary Ski which covered expenses. Wuebbens donated the work of the two excavators on Trail 17. Swamp mats are in place for the bridges which they will want back. Maybe we can replace these with culverts in the spring. We had budgeted \$7,000 for operations and maintenance. Since we are already over that, John reported that he moved in another \$4,500. Mark Roberts moved that the board accept the Treasurer's Report. Nate provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Copper Shores Recreation Grant: John noted that proposals do not have to address accessibility, but that is the stated priority. John went on to indicate that the City of Hancock is seeking funding to address accessibility for the ball fields. Wayne asked about a Swedetown Creek bridge to create pedestrian accessibility. John noted the importance of this given the development pressure on Tomasi Road. Jay will draft a letter of inquiry to gauge Copper Shores interest in such a project. Mark Klein mentioned a possible improvement for bike riders at the trailhead. John mentioned pursuing this through the Hancock Recreation Committee.

Keweenaw Community Foundation Grant: There was discussion about the \$300 grant for the Barneloped and doing a press release.

Trail Updates: Trail 17 is open according to John. Tomasi Road is still being rolled. Mary and John talked about the Wuebbens developing five acres on the city side of the snowmobile trail.

Signs and Maps: Mark mentioned the need for signage at Railroad Ravine and other spots that are used for snowshoeing and hiking. There was also discussion of blazing some of the bike trails. The trail etiquette signs are ready.

UTV: We have it, and it is in use. Tammy and John were out in it.

Budget: We will address the change with the operations and maintenance change.

Website: QR codes and daily membership (\$5) suggested donation will be added in the spring. QR codes to be added at the intersections. Trail Forks app was discussed, and it was noted that Ian Helman has updated it. Keith offered to contact Don Lafrenier with MTUs Social Science Department on QR codes as they have been a tremendous help with them on the Historic Trail in Chassell.

Luminary Ski: Jay noted the event's success. The only feedback was on the need to have signage about cookies and hot chocolate being available in the Chalet.

Milwaukee Skiers: Cancelled this year due to the lack of snow.

Barkell: Wayne reported that they are waiting for trails and that they hope to start next week. Jay and John both indicated a willingness to help. Wayne has the schedule: Mondays and Tuesdays at 2. Let Wayne know if you can help. Trying to get four weeks in.

Snowshoe Social: Set for February 3rd. Discussed pushing it out due to depth of snow.

Heikinpaiva Parade: Will take place on January 27th at 11:00 a.m. Arrive by 10:30

Barnelopet: Will take place on February 11th. Wayne discussed the need for volunteers to cover registration, the finish, and hot chocolate. The medals are in, but we have no bibs with just small ones left. Keith immediately reached out to John Farquhar who is checking with his son-in-law at Superior Timing about bibs. Jay, Murphy, Jason, and Mark Klein all volunteered to help.

Closed Session: The board went into a closed session at 8:47 p.m.

The board came out of the closed session and adjourned at 8:54 p.m.